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Viewing cable 03KUWAIT1250, U) GOK TO TAKE ITS CASE ON THE ROAD

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- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
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Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
03KUWAIT1250	2003-04-05 11:12	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Kuwait

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.al-akhbar.com/node/10172>
<http://www.al-akhbar.com/node/10173>
<http://www.al-akhbar.com/node/10175>
<http://www.al-akhbar.com/node/10187>
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<http://www.al-akhbar.com/node/10174>

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KUWAIT 001250

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/02/2013

TAGS: [PREL](#) [KU](#) [IZ](#) [SY](#) [SA](#)

SUBJECT: (U) GOK TO TAKE ITS CASE ON THE ROAD

REF: A. KUWAIT 1102

[1B](#). STATE 80809

[1C](#). STATE 84320

Classified By: Ambassador Richard H. Jones for reasons 1.5 (b) and (d)

[11](#). (C) Summary: During their April 2 meeting, the Ambassador and MinState for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Dr. Mohammed Al-Sabah discussed the progress of the war and Dr. Mohammed's upcoming trip to key UNSC member states. The Minister said the focus of his visits would be to discuss an array of issues surrounding the war in Iraq, including Kuwait's disappointment with some member states for their opposition to it. End Summary.

(U) Getting the Message Out

12. (C) MinState for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Dr. Mohammed al-Sabah gave the Ambassador a preview of his planned trip during their April 2 meeting. He said he would visit Beijing, Moscow, Paris, London, Washington, New York (to call on UNSYG), Berlin, Madrid and Rome in a whirlwind tour to "explain the war from a Kuwaiti perspective" and ask governments to condemn the Iraqi attacks against Kuwait and support the people (vice regime) of Iraq. In the U.S., where he plans to arrive on April 11, he said he plans to discuss a post-Saddam Iraq, express Kuwait's interest in being involved in reconstruction efforts and raise concerns the GOK has been hearing from Iraqi opposition groups who wish to play a greater role in the liberation of Iraq.

13. (C) Dr. Mohammed said Kuwait's Ambassador to the U.S., Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, had put together a schedule that includes visits to Capitol Hill, think-tanks such as The Brookings Institution and CSIS, as well as a planned appearance on Larry King Live (Saturday, April 12). The Minister said his message during these appointments and appearances will be that Kuwait, as a country that has been liberated from tyranny by the U.S., is very grateful for U.S. and coalition actions to remove Saddam Hussein. "Only people under occupation understand this," he said. "People need to hear that."

(C) Article 98

14. (C) The Ambassador took the opportunity to update Dr. Mohammed on a number of issues he might be called upon to discuss in Washington. Raising the ongoing effort to secure an Article 98 agreement with Kuwait, he asked if there had been any further progress since their March 24 meeting (ref A). Dr. Mohammed said that the MFA Legal Dept. had made two "small" changes, and if they proved acceptable to the USG, he would be willing to sign the agreement in Washington during his visit. (Note: Post has since received the revised draft, and forwarded it for Dept. review. End Note.)

(C) Core Group

15. (C) Briefing Dr. Mohammed on the outlines of the Core Group for Iraqi reconstruction (ref B), the Ambassador urged the GOK to play an active role in Iraqi reconstruction. He said the USG was hoping to find a GCC partner willing to join the Core Group and engage other regional states to assist in the reconstruction of Iraq. Dr. Mohammed responded by noting that Iraq was rich in resources, and suggested that loans and investment rather than grant aid would be the best way to help get Iraq on its feet. He indicated Kuwait may be willing to assist in this effort, but made no specific commitments.

(C) UN/UNCC Issues

16. (C) In the course of conversation about the need to block efforts to raise the issue of Iraq at UN venues other than the UNSC (ref C), Dr. Mohammed brought up what he called "problems" Kuwait was having regarding German efforts to hold up UNCC disbursements. Dr. Mohammed seemed perplexed by such efforts, and advised that France and Russia, who also support delaying payments, wanted "to compensate their suppliers," i.e. French and German companies. The Ambassador reaffirmed that the U.S. was opposed to these efforts and urged Dr. Mohammed to contact Kuwait's mission in Geneva to mobilize it against efforts to block April's payment of UNCC awards. Dr. Mohammed said he would do so without delay.

(U) Aid Coordination

17. (C) The Ambassador informed Dr. Mohammed that A/S Burns would be calling in GCC Ambassadors in an effort to persuade them to energize their relief efforts and coordinate them through the Humanitarian Operations Center (HOC) in Kuwait. The Ambassador raised the possibility that the GCC states might provide personnel to help distribute humanitarian aid in Iraq, or use Peninsula Shield forces beyond those already here in defense of Kuwait, for this purpose. Dr. Mohammed said the suggestion was timely, as the GOK was currently trying to organize a GCC investment conference, which could be held here as early as next week. Dr. Mohammed indicated he would use this opportunity to raise the idea with his GCC counterparts.

(C) Regional States and the War

18. (C) Also discussed was the progress of the war and its immediate impact on U.S. relations with states in the region. The Ambassador and Dr. Mohammed made a tour d'horizon on the roles of neighboring countries.

19. (C) In response to Dr. Mohammed's questions, the Ambassador confirmed that Syria continues to be unhelpful to U.S. efforts in Iraq, both by allowing Iraq's embassy in Damascus to recruit fighters for Saddam, and by shipping

military items such as night vision goggles across the border to Iraq. Dr. Mohammed mentioned a report from his ambassador in Syria that there had been a visible increase in "expensive cars" with Iraqi diplomatic plates in Damascus as of late (although most seemed to be en route to Lebanon), and that hospitals were cordoning off sections for VIP use. The Ambassador confirmed for Dr. Mohammed that the air war was being directed from PSAB, but that air strikes were not originating from Saudi territory.

¶10. (C) COMMENT: As we have been reporting, the Kuwaitis are solidly behind us, and increasingly defiant in response to condemnation from throughout the Arab world. In Dr. Mohammed, the GOK is sending a very able senior spokesman to let America, key coalition partners and key opponents of the war know where Kuwait stands.

JONES